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11 July 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert W. Magee  
Chairman, Intelligence Community Awards Review Panel

FROM: [REDACTED]

Director, Intelligence Community Staff

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SUBJECT: Recommendation for the National Intelligence  
Meritorious Unit Citation

1. Nominee: Future SIGINT Capabilities Study Group.

2. Time period to which the proposed award is applicable: December 1983  
through April 1985.

3. On behalf of the National Foreign Intelligence Community, I am pleased  
to recommend that the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation be  
awarded to the Future SIGINT Capabilities Study (FSCS) Group. This  
recommendation is in recognition of the outstanding achievements of all who  
participated in producing a comprehensive report which is the blueprint for  
the United States SIGINT System (USSS) through the year 2000. Their  
accomplishments in producing a study recommendation for a viable SIGINT system  
in the face of expanding technology and explosive costs is meritorious. This  
FSCS report resulted from a herculean effort by the FSCS group and will  
provide significant benefits to the DCI and Program Managers through the turn  
of the century. The report provides a valuable guideline for an investment  
strategy that will help ensure that the USSS will remain viable. (C)

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4. These study results are of inestimable value to Intelligence Community planners. Long term planning and programming of SIGINT resources will now benefit from a fully coordinated planning document which reflects the requirements of every member of the Intelligence Community. We now know that future development and disposition of SIGINT assets will fall within stringent cost constraints, will meet the challenge [redacted] environment, and most importantly, will satisfy the most pressing national requirements. (C)

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5. I commissioned the FSCS in December 1983 to develop and evaluate a proposed SIGINT system for the years 1990 and 2000. The Study was under the purview of the Chairman, SIGINT Committee, who along with the Director, National Security Agency, provided a full-time core study staff. The proposed

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6. The Phase I staff projected future requirements to be levied on the system, described the composition of the system in terms of capabilities, capacities, and expected signals to be targeted, assessed the effect of SIGINT technology, and projected the impact of all of the above on SIGINT production through the five phases of conflict, peace [redacted] conventional war [redacted] theater nuclear war, and general nuclear war.

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[redacted] The accomplishment of this task required an examination of the entire target environment and considerable technical skill was brought to bear on the problem. To define and organize the tasks required not only the application of in-depth technical analytic techniques and talent but also considerable management acumen. Each sub-group's efforts had to complement the other's to ensure coherency in the end result--an effort that was successful but no small feat. (C)

7. Those involved in Phase II produced a SIGINT system architecture for each phase of the SIGINT cycle; i.e., collection, processing, analysis, reporting, and dissemination. In addition, they produced a SIGINT system architecture for support to military operations and communications supporting SIGINT operations.

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[redacted] The proposed architectures are practical and feasible and their implementation is essential to the continued success of the USSS. (C)

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8. The outstanding level of cooperation demonstrated by all FSCS group participants is deserving of special recognition. Such dedication at every level and across such a wide segment of the Intelligence Community clearly shows the resolve of Intelligence Community professionals to serve our nation well. The endeavor represented a significant departure from the past in both magnitude, scope, and level of cooperative involvement. (U)

9. Participants included management, staff, and operations personnel representing the National Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of State, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force (Space Systems), Intelligence Producers Council, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Communications Agency, [redacted] Intelligence Community Staff, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for CSI, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, the Military Services, and contractors and consultants. (C)

10. The meritorious performance and outstanding level of Community cooperation reflect the highest credit upon each FSCS group member, the management of participating organizations, and the National Foreign Intelligence Community. The participants should be proud of their individual contributions to the vitality of the future US SIGINT System. (U)

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Unit Citation

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CITATION

Future SIGINT Capabilities Study Group

National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation

Participants in the Future SIGINT Capabilities Study Group, both individually and collectively, contributed immeasurably to the future quality and quantity of intelligence information to be contributed to the national intelligence effort by the United States SIGINT System. This study, which will be the guiding requirement for many billions of dollars to be invested in the SIGINT System, was the product of an unparalleled effort by over three hundred personnel representing fifteen different elements of the Intelligence Community. The cohesiveness, cooperation, and expertise demonstrated by all participants in the study constituted a model of Intelligence Community effort in the face of major challenges.

The Future SIGINT Capabilities Study, in guiding the SIGINT System's transition to new technologies and requirements of the next century, will stand for many years as the keystone document for complex decisionmaking involving major operations and investments. As such, it will be critical not only to the success of the SIGINT System, but also, by extension, to the success of the critical intelligence efforts required to support United States national interests and strategies in a turbulent, stressed, and time- and resource-constrained world. All participants in the Study may be justifiably proud of their individual and collective contributions to this crucial Intelligence Community enterprise.